

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 31818 131624Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20

OMB-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 131404Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5431

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 31818

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 31818 131624Z

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, FR

SUBJECT:WEU AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE

REF: PARIS 30340

1. WEU ASSEMBLY STAFFER, RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS, TOLD US THAT FRENCH HAVE NOT FOLLOWED UP THROUGH WEU ON JOBERT'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL) THAT WEU COULD BECOME "A USEFUL FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION" REGARDING EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

2. HE NOTED THAT JOBERT'S HINTS AT RECENT WEU ASSEMBLY MEETING CONCERNING POSSIBLE ROLE FOR WEU AS FOCAL POINT FOR DEVELOPING DEFENSE ORGANIZATION WITH A PURELY EUROPEAN CHARACTER SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CASE OF JOBERT "THINKING OUT LOUD" TO SEE WHAT SORT OF REACTION HE MIGHT ELICIT FROM HIS WEU ALLIES, RATHER THAN STEP IN CONSCIOUS FRENCH POLICY TOWARD REINVIGORATING OF WE. STAFFER OBSERVED THAT NEGATIVE REACTION BY LEBER (PARIS 30341) AND BY UK FOREIGN OFFICE SEEMED TO HAVE HAD EFFECT OF PURSUADING GOF TO DROP WEU GAMBIT, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING.

3. OUR SOURCE ADDED THAT FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO PUSH DEBRE INITIATIVE, RENEWED BY JOBERT, FOR CLOSER EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON ARAMENTS WITHIN WEU FRAMEWORK.

4. STAFFER COMMENTED THAT JOBERT'S SUGGESTION FOR REINVIGORATING WEU SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. IT WAS, IN HIS OPINION, SIMPLY ONE OF SEVERAL GOF IDEAS FLOATED DURING PAST SIX MONTHS DESIGNED TO GET FRANCE'S EUROPEAN ALLIES TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE AS SEEN THROUGH FRENCH OPTIC, RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: AS WE NOTED IN OUR COMMENT IN REFTEL, JOBERT'S REFERENCE TO ENLARGING SCOPE OF WEU WAS SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE TO BE MOR TANTALIZING THAN CONCRETE. SO FAR, WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT IT WAS ANYTHING MORE THAN A TRIAL BALLOON WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE REPORT, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DEFLATED. GDS
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS31818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731227/aaaaatjr.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 30340
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EU AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005